Chicago ranked 6th in transit *3*

Skylar Spence sounds off on Springsteen *14*

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Wednesday
DECEMBER 9, 2015

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A Chicago Tribune publication

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YOUNG HAWKS

THE TEAM'S NEWEST MEMBERS MAY BE YOUNG, BUT AS PLAYERS, THEY'RE NO FLEDGLINGS *8-9*

BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM » GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT, DRINK, DO IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM

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THE SIXTH CITY?

CHICAGO'S PUBLIC TRANSIT IS 6TH AMONG BIG U.S. CITIES IN NEW RANKING

By Rianne Coale | REDEYE

Chicago's public transit ranks sixth among the nation's big cities, chasing metropolises such as Washington, D.C., Boston and, yes, New York, according to a Top 10 list released last week.

The 2016 Transit Score, by Redfin-owned Walk Score, examines just how accessible public transit is in a given city. An algorithm is used to calculate the score—with multiple factors in play, including how far a person would have to travel from their home to get to the nearest transit stop; the frequency, in the case of Chicago, a bus or train arrives at a particular station or stop; and the variety of public transit available (bus, train, ferry, etc.).

While New York ranked No. 1 with a score of just over 84, Chicago was just under 65, about the same as last year.

It didn't hurt that New York expanded one of its train lines back in September—the first such extension of the subway system there in 26 years.

A city with a transit score between 50 and 69 has "good" transit, while a score of 70 to 89 would be considered "great." Anything 90 to 100 would be a "rider's paradise," according to Walk Score, which rates a community's walkability, bikeability and public transit options.

Indeed, none of the big cities (300,000-plus) in the Top 10 list scored high enough to be considered a "paradise."

Walk Score doesn't just rate cities as a whole, it also rates smaller communities within cities. For example, the Loop is seen as highly accessible, garnering a score of 99.1. But some neighborhoods on the Far South and Southeast sides don't have as many public transit optiions, lowering Chicago's overall score, according to a Redfin spokesperson.

> "We disagreed with Walk Score's methodology putting twice as much numeric weight behind rail service in its calculations. We know from our CTA customers that bus service is just as important as rail service and shouldn't be weighted any differently."
>
> —**Jeff Tolman,** CTA spokesman

Joe Schwieterman, director of the Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development at DePaul University, said that Chicago is hurt by its Midwestern development pattern, which leaves parts of the city in transit deserts where a person may have to walk well over a mile to get to the nearest transit corridor.

"When we get beyond 3 to 4 miles out of downtown in some neighborhoods, we only have a few public transit options, like a bus running every 10-15 minutes, which really isn't very good," Schwieterman said. "Chicago has never invested in light rail or street cars like many other cities, so we miss a lot of places that aren't reachable by rapid transit, commuter rail or bus."

So can we improve our transit score?

That remains to be seen.

The CTA has plans to extend the Red Line Dan Ryan branch 5.3 miles and streamline transit service between the Far South Side and downtown. But no time frame has been set to start and complete the project.

A spokesman for the transit agency wasn't so sure about the Walk Score rankings.

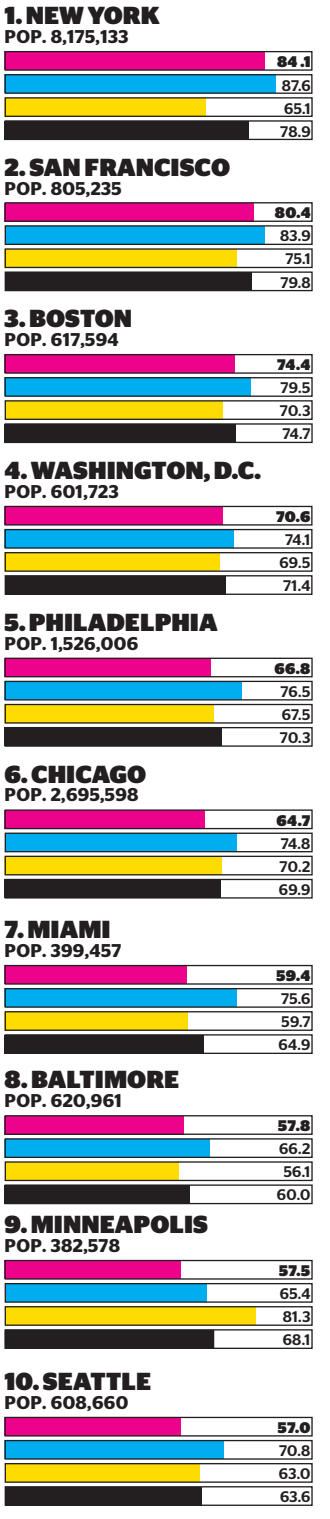
"We disagreed with Walk Score's methodology putting twice as much numeric weight behind rail service in its calculations. We know from our CTA customers that bus service is just as important as rail service and shouldn't be weighted any differently," CTA spokesman Jeff Tolman said. "The CTA provides 82 percent of the transit rides for the Chicago region and its 35 surrounding communities, which equates to about a half billion rides per year. Under Mayor Emanuel, we've taken on $5 billion of investments to help modernize our rail and bus fleets, and will continue to invest to ensure customer satisfaction."

The CTA follows an industry standard with buses and trains arriving at stops no more than 30 minutes apart and no person having to walk more than a half-mile to reach public transit, according to Tolman. RCOALE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM | @RIANNECOALE

THE TOP 10 CITIES IN PUBLIC TRANSIT

In addition to public transit, Walk Score also rates cities for their walkability and bikeability. Below are the Top 10 cities for public transit, as well as a look at each city's walk score, bike score and an average of all three scores, based on the latest available numbers for each category.

● TRANSIT SCORE
● WALK SCORE
● BIKE SCORE
● SCORE AVERAGE



SOURCE: WALKSCORE.COM

I threw epic parties, so a 1st birthday was a cinch

Mike Maxwell
» redeye@redeyechicago.com
» @themikemaxwell

My whole life, I've enjoyed being the one to throw an epic party.

But gone are the days of fraternity theme parties where togas, pajamas or Mardi Gras beads are centerpieces.

I realized that after hosting my son's first birthday party.

Planning a first birthday party has so much to it that I never expected. There are the invites and the guest list, plus a fine mix of angst and comfort in how my life has been flipped turned upside down. My wife, mom and mother-in-law all were eager to discuss the theme of the party. Excuse me? The theme?

The kid's birthday invite stands out in the pile of just-arrived snail mail because it's not a bill, it's almost always pastel and it comes in a trademark odd size whose dimensions alone tell you that you've lost half of an upcoming weekend.

Tackling the guest list for a 1-year-old's birthday party is a very delicate matter. I say that because I know getting invited to a child's birthday party is social jury duty.

We deliberated, and fortunately my wife and I agreed that it would essentially be punishment to invite our friends to our son's party. The first birthday party is another one of those instances the old golden rule of "do unto others as you would have done to you" drives the easy answer. Who really wants to go to a 1-year-old's party?

Family and indebted friends, that's who.

Even with a guest list that was limited to family, I felt like our front room turned into an auxiliary Toys R Us storage facility. Baby gifts are how my older siblings finally have an opportunity to offer retribution for when I gave their kids whatever light-up, noise-making contraption I could find. So now we have some dancing, singing robot dog that also promises to teach my kid numbers and the alphabet while its "Saturday Night Fever" disco floor shoots an array of colors that fill the room like an East Berlin nightclub. Splendid.

What's a party without cake?! We had gluten-rich cupcakes topped with the finest processed sugar for all to enjoy. I buckled the little guy into his high chair, and the chorus of off-tune white people queued up "Happy Birthday to You." Knowing this could get messy, we did some disaster control and had him shirtless going into the cake moment.

> "Tackling the guest list for a 1-year-old's birthday party is a very delicate matter. I say that because I know getting invited to a child's birthday party is social jury duty.

As my wife and I crouched next to our son, family singing, I realized how that exact moment could not be more confusing for a kid. He was shirtless, staring at a room of old people singing at him and an enticing new thing called cake that, aside from getting his first hit off the sugar cane, was topped with a numeric fire that celebrated the dawn of his existence.

As day turned into night and our family started to leave, I sat in my front room fully capable of building my own safe room made of Duplo blocks, realizing I wouldn't have it any other way.

Welcome to life, my man. Enjoy the party.

MIKE MAXWELL IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR.

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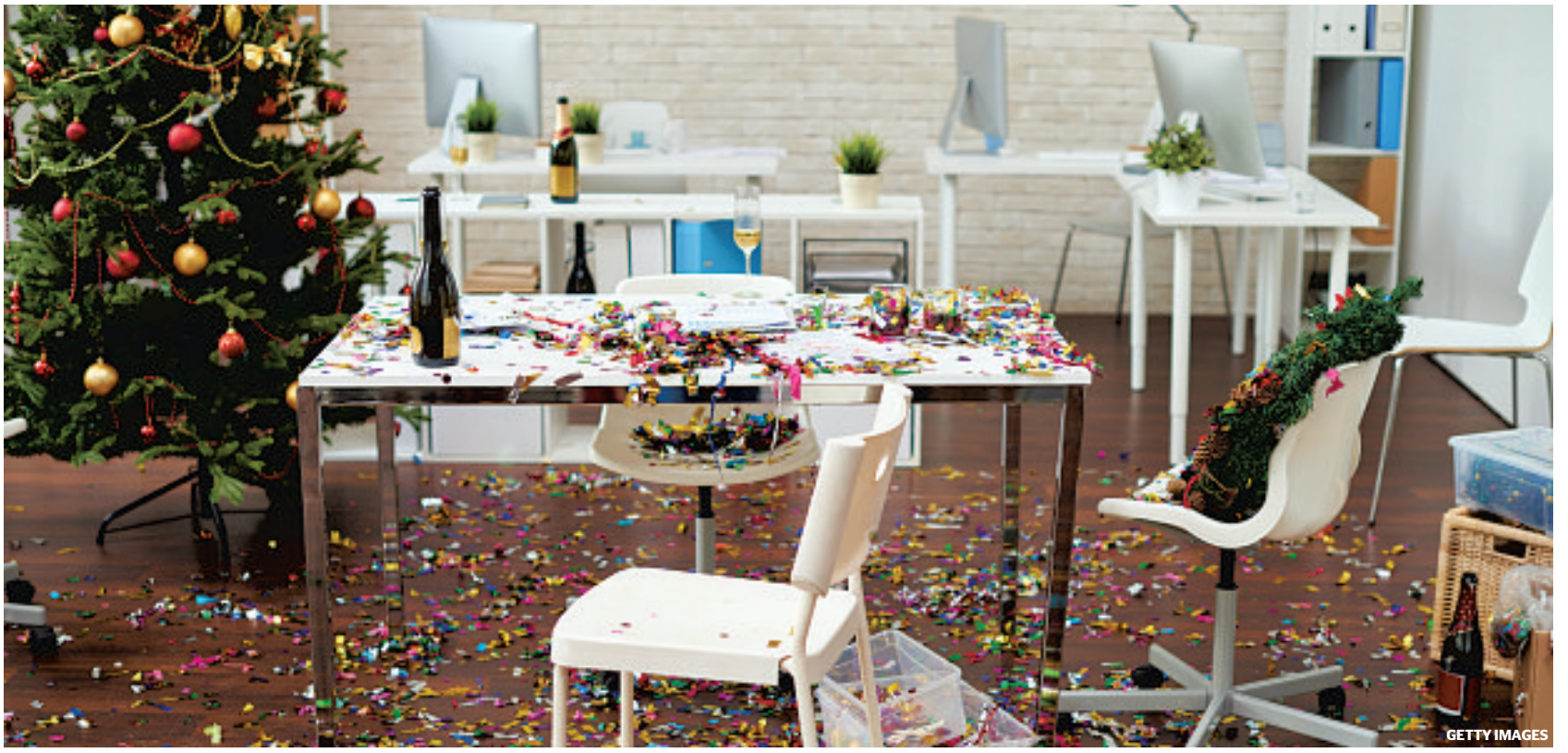
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HOLIDAY SOBRIETY

NAVIGATING THE SEASON OF PARTIES CAN BE TRICKY FOR RECOVERING ADDICTS

By Rianne Coale | REDEYE

While some people stress about what they'll wear to a New Year's soirée or about burning the appetizers for their Christmas bash, recovering alcoholics must put their sobriety above all else during the holiday party season.

They're worried about how to politely decline your offer of spiked eggnog, or whether they want to share news of their recovery and sobriety with friends and family they haven't seen in years.

For those who have been sober a long time, this may not be so difficult, but for many recovering addicts, especially those who are newly in recovery, the holidays can be a trigger into relapse, experts say.

"It's funny because once you get through a few holidays sober, saying 'no' to people isn't such a big deal," said Sean Scanlon of Logan Square, a 43-year-old recovering alcohol and drug addict who has been clean and sober for 11 years. "When I was newly sober, I constantly worried what people would think of me. There was a lot more stress and nervousness back then."

Liz Russo, a 37-year-old Pennsylvanian who has written about her recovery for RedEye, said the hardest part of saying no to people who offer her alcohol is trying not to make them feel uncomfortable.

"When you decline someone offering you something, they want to know why. You tell them, then they feel bad for asking, and then they avoid you the whole party," said Russo, who has been sober for four years. "I just don't want to be treated differently because I choose not to drink alcohol. But, it happens. It comes with the territory."

The holiday season can be really hard for recovering alcoholics because booze has become an integral part of many celebrations, said Leah Young, program manager for the Loop location of Presence Behavioral Health Addiction Services.

"For a recovering alcoholic, there's a need to feel like they're part of the spirit of the holiday, which oftentimes includes alcohol consumption," Young said.

"If you toast with a sparkling cider instead of champagne, does anyone need to know that you don't have champagne?" Young added. "In recovery treatment, we try to shift a person's thinking around needing alcohol to feel like they're celebrating."

Peer pressure can play a large role. For anyone who's not a recovering addict, it can be easy to make light of someone's sobriety and pressure them to put it on the shelf for a night. For some, a longtime friend's sobriety may be a mirror they don't want to look into.

"I definitely think peer pressure is a big thing. Once you've chosen sobriety, those old drinking buddies will be forced to look at themselves, and think, 'Maybe I also have an issue with alcohol?' " Scanlon said. "The fact of the matter is, while in recovery, you'll probably lose some of those friends along the way."

Russo said she doesn't fall to peer pressure because of her immense love for her newly sober life.

"Being 'tested' in social situations will strengthen your recovery if you are determined and have your priorities in order," Russo said. "I've learned I can still have plenty of fun and be likable without the social lubrication. You don't need people's acceptance or approval, you just have to remain true to yourself."

David Cohen, a recovering heroin addict (19 years clean and sober) and licensed clinical social worker and certified alcohol and drug counselor in Chicago, said that above all else, people in recovery need to take care of themselves during the holidays.

"The holiday season is about having fun, but more important it's about love, intimacy, spirituality, sharing, caring and belonging. You can do that without using. You can do that with sobriety. Keep to the value of the holiday," Cohen said. "The best gift a person can offer their family is the gift of sobriety."

If you're struggling with alcohol dependence, there are many addiction treatment centers in Chicago you can reach out to. Scanlon said getting into a good community of other sober people changed the way he spends his holidays.

"I've had more fun—more real fun—and I laugh so much more sober than I ever did when I was drinking. It just feels good in your heart," Scanlon said.

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STICK TO SOBRIETY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Leah Young, program manager for the Loop location of Presence Behavioral Health Addiction Services, gave some tips on how a recovering addict can navigate a holiday party:

Arrive to the party late and leave early.

Go to a 12-step or other recovery support group meeting or make plans to call a sponsor/sober person directly before or after the party.

Have a plan in place before you leave the house—identify any potential triggers.

Practice what you're going to say to people if they offer you a drink—something individualized and truthful to you.

NO!
Be firm and assertive when saying "no."

Bring your own non-alcoholic beverage and keep it in your hand at all times to help deter people from offering you a drink.

Visit family members and friends individually instead of going to the party.

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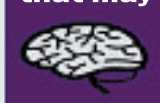

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THE KIDS IN THE STALL

YOUNG HAWKS HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GROW UP QUICKLY

By Scott King | FOR REDEYE

Walking into the Blackhawks dressing room this season, you wouldn't find the nameplates that read Sharp, Saad or Oduya.

You would, however, notice a slew of plates with somewhat unfamiliar names. Three such tags reading Kero, Dano and Panarin belong to three forwards mostly fresh to the NHL. Since training camp, several other young players have gotten a look from the team, including Erik Gustafsson and Ryan Hartman, both 21, and Viktor Svedberg, 24. But the previously mentioned trio has made a larger impact so far.

"It's great to have the energy, the excitement that they bring," captain Jonathan Toews said. "I think even just in training camp, it got everyone going to see how hard some of these young guys are working and the skill that they were bringing. So it's been huge for us."

Toews joked about how old the team's newfound youth makes him feel.

"Yeah, I was talking with Kaner [Patrick Kane]," he said. "... I forgot how old we were for a second, 27, 28? Man. Either way, it's not good. It's going by way too fast."

Forward Andrew Shaw also said he feels like a seasoned vet with new players around.

"[I'm a] fifth-year pro, and all these young guys coming in, it reminds me of a few years ago when I was that guy," he said. "It does make me feel a little bit older, I guess."

Slovakia native Marko Dano, 21, came to Chicago via the Brandon Saad trade with Columbus, where he garnered his first string of NHL reps. The winger, who possesses a strong net-front presence, has had myriad chances but has only one goal as a Hawk, which he tallied Nov. 4.

"We've had a couple chances, but they didn't go in." Dano said of himself and his linemates' production. "The puck [has been] so close, but that's the good thing is we've had those chances, and if we continue working hard, those goals are going to come towards us."

Tanner Kero, a 23-year-old native of Hancock, Mich., scored his first NHL goal Nov. 6 against New Jersey.

"It was really nice to get the first one out of the way," he said. "Hopefully I can start to get a couple more."

Kero said he's received words of wisdom from Blackhawks veterans, especially Toews.

"His main message is you want to work as hard as you can and never take a shift off," said Kero, who was reassigned to Rockford (the Hawks' AHL affiliate) on Monday but is expected to return down the stretch after impressing on the penalty kill with the Hawks.

> "The young part of the game is one of the most exciting parts of the game."
> —**Jeremy Roenick**, former Hawk and current analyst for NBC Sports

The team's top call-up from last season, 21-year-old Teuvo Teravainen, started his second season in a bit of a slump but scored Sunday against Winnipeg playing on a line with

HEY, 'BREADMAN'!

BLACKHAWKS ROOKIE ARTEMI PANARIN DELIVERING BIG TIME

Artemi Panarin's nickname suggest he's fully baked as an NHL player, and his production hints at the same.

Entering Tuesday, the Blackhawks forward led all rookies in points (27) and assists (18). The 24-year-old has played on a line with Patrick Kane, and their combined success has been no coincidence.

"I have been so impressed watching Artemi play, at such a young age to have the confidence and the puck control and the knowledge of the game and have the guts to play it the way that he does," former Blackhawk and current NBC Sports analyst Jeremy Roenick said.

Through translator and fellow Russian Viktor Tikhonov, Panarin acknowledged the team-given nickname "Breadman," a play on his name sounding like Panera.

"I don't really care; no particular feelings about it," he said.

That said, he'd be open to a partnership with the restaurant chain.

"[It] would be cool for both of us," Panarin said. "I was there once and had a cup of tea. I've seen the fans' memes of me there."

Kane isn't the only who's benefited from Panarin's rise. Hawks rookie Tanner Kero got an assist from him on his first NHL goal last month.

"I just remember trying to find that space in front of the net, and we were kind of just working around, and Panarin had the puck on the wall and I felt like I had some time in front," Kero said. "[I] didn't really feel anyone on me, and you can see he saw me open, just kind of threw it in front of the net. I just tried to make a little play and open him [the goalie] up.

Off the ice, Panarin is known to have a book in his hand.

"He's a fun guy," said Tikhonov, who is now with Arizona after being claimed off waivers recently. "... I think he's pretty into self-improvement. He likes reading his books, he likes to make himself a better person."

If Panarin is watching TV, chances are he's locked in on "Prison Break," though perhaps he would be a fan of "Orange is the New Black."

"I like when they're in the prison," he said.

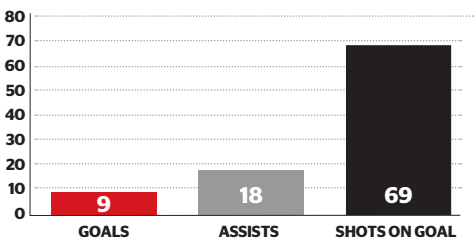
There's every indication his teammates enjoy having him on the team beyond what he contributes on the ice.

"He's a really interesting guy, good heart," Tikhonov said. "He wouldn't hurt a fly unless he gets mad, then he gets pretty aggressive. He's a fun guy to be around."

–S.K.

Panning out so far

Blackhawks rookie Artemi Panarin is a front-runner for Calder Trophy (NHL rookie of the year) honors thanks to his outstanding start.



Marian Hossa and Toews. The Finland native also scored two goals in the 2015 Stanley Cup Final against Tampa Bay.

Defenseman Trevor van Riemsdyk, 24, spent an overwhelming majority of last season (his first in the NHL) with a lower-body injury before rejoining the team during the Stanley Cup Final. Van Riemsdyk echoes Kero's experience with the veterans helping young guys get acclimated to the league.

"All the guys are such great teammates as well as great players," van Riemsdyk said. "Off the ice they're some of the nicest guys I've ever met. Obviously they've been through so much they have a world of knowledge to give you."

Playing on the same line as Kane, Russian rookie sensation Artemi Panarin has had an explosive debut. He could eventually be in line for the Calder Trophy, awarded to the NHL's top rookie.

"He's been totally, totally impressive, and as of right now, with Connor McDavid [of Edmonton] being out of the lineup for so long because of his shoulder injury, I think Panarin is the cream of the crop right now for rookies," said Jeremy Roenick, a former Hawks great and current analyst for NBC Sports.

As the Hawks pursue back-to-back Cups, they'll need to lean on young players' contributions to complement their established stars.

"The young part of the game is one of the most exciting parts of the game," Roenick said. "Especially as a veteran, you look forward to watching young talent come up. You look forward to helping those kids and the fact that you could have a long-lasting impact and put a fingerprint on some of these kids that really look up to the veterans."

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WGN producer

Clark Jones
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Stand-up comic

Alex Quigley
@alexquigley
RedEye contributor

Josh Terry
@joshhterry
RedEye music reporter

Soxman
@thesoxman72
Caped Sox crusader

1	**LeBron James' lifetime deal with Nike.**	What caused Katie Gibson's eyes to roll so hard they're now somewhere on Randolph?	What is the basis for Spike Lee's next musical?	What are THOOOOOOSE? (Oh. They're Nikes.)	What is a lot of product placement in "Space Jam 2"?	What is a Lifetime original movie I'll actually watch?
2	**Kris Bryant's grievance against the Cubs.**	What is a colossal waste of time this offseason on the North Side?	What is the latest replacement for the Billy Goat curse?	What are we going to forget about after a 3-for-5, two-homer Opening Day performance?	What is Bryant's strikeout percentage?	What is another reason to hate Scott Boras?
3	**The Bears' terrible 1-5 home record.**	What is a much-needed wake-up call for Bears fans?	What is Robbie Gould's ticket out of town?	Why does Daddy drink?	What is an undercooked and overpriced bratwurst at Soldier Field?	What is Fools Gould?
4	**Starting Johnny Manziel at quarterback.**	What is a live trainwreck waiting to happen?	What is Cleveland being Cleveland?	Why not Zoidberg?	Who is not Austin Davis?	What is a fantasy football Hail Mary?
5	**Jimmy Butler, Lee Brice and Randy Houser.**	What is a trifecta of weird?	What are things you settle for when you couldn't sign Carmelo?	Who are two-thirds of these people?	What is that one time my friend spotted Jimmy Butler at a Brad Paisley concert?	What is the result of a Derrick Rose max contract?

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CHICAGO FANS HAVE BEEN PRETTY LUCKY IN 2015.

From the Blackhawks' dominance to the rise of the Cubs to the Sky's emergence as a WNBA title contender, there has been plenty to celebrate. That said, several individuals probably wish they could have a do-over.

With that, it's time again to vote for Chicago Sports Stud and Dud of the Year! You have until 11:59 p.m. Dec. 13 to make your voice heard in each poll. And don't feel like you have to vote only once. This is Chicago, after all.

Visit **redeyechicago.com/sports** to cast your votes!

2015 STUD OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Jake Arrieta, *Cubs pitcher*
Almost out of nowhere, Arrieta was one of the most dominant pitchers in baseball this season. He had a no-hitter to go with his Cy Young Award. He's got terrific numbers, too: 22-6 with a 1.77 ERA and 236 strikeouts.

Kris Bryant, *Cubs infielder*
Even with the late start to the season (cough, cough), the 2015 NL Rookie of the Year pummeled opposing pitching to the tune of a .275 average, 26 homers and 99 RBIs.

Jimmy Butler, *Bulls guard*
The reigning NBA Most Improved Player supplemented his renowned defensive prowess with a bolstered offensive game. He averaged 20 points, 5.8 rebounds and 3.3 assists in 2014-15 and is putting up similar numbers this season.

Elena Delle Donne, *Sky guard/forward*
Where to begin with the reigning WNBA MVP? Her league-high 23.4 scoring average? The fact that she scored at least 40 points twice, 30 points five times and 20 points 21 times in 31 games? How she led the Sky to their third straight playoff berth and was third in the league in rebounds and blocks? Any of those will work, actually.

Pau Gasol, *Bulls forward*
Mr. Double Double averaged 18.5 points and 11.8 rebounds (and 2.7 assists and 1.9 blocks) in 2014-15, and he already has 10 double doubles this season.

Patrick Kane, *Blackhawks forward*
Although his 2015 likely will be remembered more for the sexual assault investigation, Kane undeniably is playing like an MVP this season. Look no further than his incredible points streak.

Duncan Keith,
Blackhawks defenseman
Durable and dependable as always, Keith rose to near-legend status with his play in the Stanley Cup playoffs by earning the Conn Smythe Trophy. He had 18 assists and three goals in the postseason, and one of those goals was the go-ahead marker in the deciding Game 6 of the Stanley Cup Final.

Joe Maddon, *Cubs manager*
The Cubs' extraordinary turnaround in 2015 that led to their first NLCS berth since 2003 can largely be attributed to Maddon, who was named NL Manager of the Year.

Anthony Rizzo, *Cubs infielder*
He didn't have any awards to show for it, but Rizzo was the Cubs' most productive offensive player in 2015: .278 batting average, 31 homers, 101 RBIs and 17 stolen bases.

Jonathan Toews, *Blackhawks forward*
Captain Serious won the ESPY for Best NHL Player, was a finalist for the Selke Trophy (for the league's best defensive forward) and led the Hawks to their third Stanley Cup in six seasons. He racked up 10 goals and 11 assists in the playoffs.

2015 DUD OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Robbie Gould, *Bears kicker*
His shank on a game-winning boot against San Francisco is still fresh in fans' minds. Beyond that, he's already missed five field goals this year (26-for-31), the most errant attempts he's had since 2010.

Adam LaRoche,
White Sox infielder
The slugger was supposed to be a better version of Adam Dunn. He wasn't. LaRoche hit just .207 with 12 home runs, 44 RBIs and 133 strikeouts despite making $12 million this year.

Jeff Samardzija,
White Sox pitcher
The right-hander just got a five-year, $90 million deal from San Francisco, which is great for him. But that doesn't erase his dismal 2015. Samardzija finished with an 11-13 record and a 4.96 ERA despite making almost $10 million this year.

Jake Arrieta
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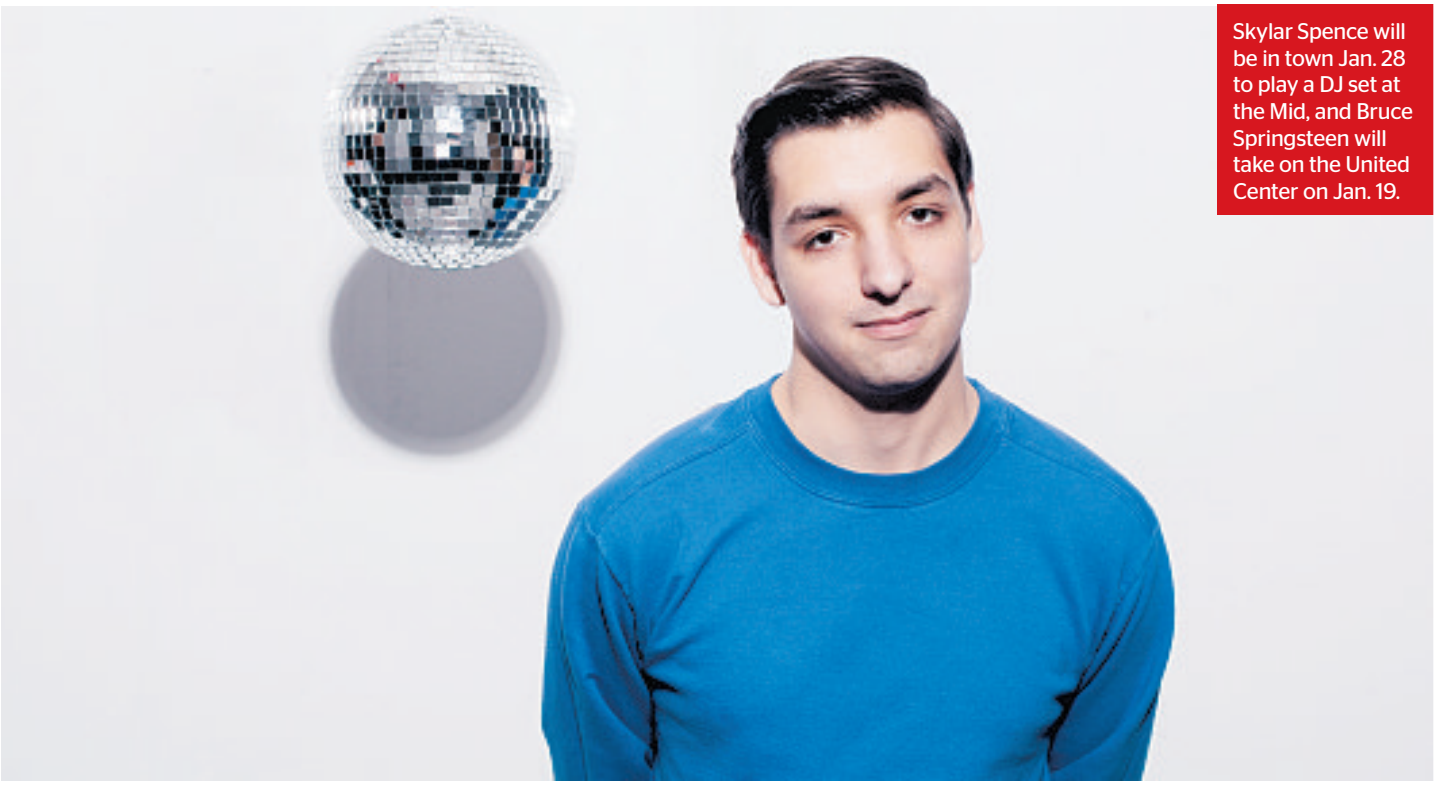
SKYLAR SPENCE | BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN'S 'BORN TO RUN'

Josh Terry
» jterry@redeyechicago.com
» @joshhterry

Listening to Skylar Spence's album "Prom King," it's clear that the 22-year-old singer-songwriter (real name: Ryan DeRobertis) is a devout student of pop music. The record is a glitchy and ebullient collection of bouncy electro-pop that looks back to golden eras of funk, house and disco while remaining firmly of-the-moment. There's so much happening throughout its 11 tracks.

What I'm trying to say here is that Skylar Spence does not sound at all like Bruce Springsteen. With that in mind, it's not terribly surprising that DeRobertis has never heard "Born to Run," the Boss' classic third album from 1975, in full. "I'm not too sure I'm going to like this one," he admitted. "I've tried listening to Bruce Springsteen. There are a few songs from him that really get me from his early stuff, like his debut album 'Greetings from Asbury Park, N.J.' I've given the big hits a chance and tried 'Nebraska,' and it was not my cup of tea."

We listened to "Born to Run" backstage at Schubas before Skylar Spence's headlining set. Read DeRobertis' instant reactions to some songs below, and get his full take at **redeyechicago.com.**



Skylar Spence will be in town Jan. 28 to play a DJ set at the Mid, and Bruce Springsteen will take on the United Center on Jan. 19.

1. "Thunder Road"

Josh: What do you think of this one?
Ryan: I'm somebody who needs to spend a little bit of attention to look at lyricism and stuff like that. If I'm there, it might hit me like a freight train, but musically this is definitely not the stuff I was raised on.
Josh: Totally. And Springsteen is the artist that you need to hear the lyrics. What were you raised on?
Ryan: All new wave and synth-pop, like Depeche Mode.
Josh: Did you have a preconceived notion of Bruce Springsteen growing up?
Ryan: My dad hates Bruce Springsteen because of how big "Born in the U.S.A." was when the time new wave was happening—Duran Duran was putting "The Wild Boys" out at the time. That was the stuff he was more drawn to, and so am I.
Josh: Do you think Springsteen was viewed as an '80s Nickelback around that time for some fans of new wave, like your dad?
Ryan: I wonder.

5. "Born to Run"

Ryan: I was "meh" on "Backstreets," but this one will totally get you going.
Josh: This song is more fun, though. You hear this song for the first time, you feel like you're a New Jersey kid trying to skip town.
Ryan: My deal is the earliest memory I have of Bruce Springsteen is his cover of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," so when you hear this it's kind of like he's doing that hokey pokey Christmas music with the bells. I think that ruined it for me.

6. "She's the One"

Josh: It's interesting because Springsteen wrote "Born to Run" when he was just 24, which isn't so interesting because you were how old when you wrote "Prom King"?
Ryan: I was 21. I don't know, man. It's hard for me to picture this song being a youth statement. In 2015, we're so far removed from this kind of music that it doesn't sound like a 24-year-old made this.
Josh: It certainly doesn't.
Ryan: There's something here that doesn't jive with me. I can't really put my finger on it. I think having the musical background where my first contextualization of hearing the saxophone was in a George Michael song rather than this. Where hearing this you could think it's kind of hokey. I'm sure someone raised on Springsteen hearing George Michael sax would think, "Are you kidding me?" It's two different schools of thought approaching music, and there's not much middle ground.
Josh: That's really interesting to hear.

7. "Meeting Across the River"

Ryan: This right here, though. This is the song I've most compositionally enjoyed so far.
Josh: This is called "Meeting Across the River." This is where the album slows down a little bit.
Ryan: Hmm. It's one of those sine curves, you know? I definitely enjoy it musically. It's pulling me two different ways when he starts singing, though. If we have a big lyric book out to follow along, I'd be more into it.
Josh: Especially with a writer like Springsteen. When I interviewed Split Single's Jason Narducy, who's never heard Bob Dylan's "Highway 61 Revisited," it was the same problem: If you're not paying close enough attention to the lyrics, you'll be missing out.
Ryan: Yeah, exactly! Whether you like it or not, the lyrics are worth checking out. I have the same opinions about Dylan, where there are songs that totally move me and some that don't. I remember listening to "Blood on the Tracks" with a friend and loving "Tangled Up in Blue," and then for the rest of the album we're thinking, "OK, he's done four verses, where is this one going?"
Josh: It's very linear songwriting.
Ryan: It's a trip. It requires a different kind of appreciation.

Final verdict: "I was one of those kids really into [the website] Rate Your Music and wanted to digest all the music that was rated as the greatest of all time because I thought it would make me a better musician," DeRobertis explained. "With some records like the Velvet Underground and Nico, I remember thinking 'What is this?' and then it just clicked."

It's safe to say "Born to Run" did not instantly click, as he said, "Some albums demand more attention and time." "My taste in music tends to go a little jazzier, so the straightforwardness of this record is a little jarring to me, which is why I'm more of a fan of his first album. I enjoy the songwriting. ... It's not like people were doing this, though, at the time."

"I'd rate this album a 2 or a 2½," he said, using the RedEye 4-star system. "Someone is going to kick my ass for saying that." DeRobertis knows that this'll be a controversial opinion, saying, "I can picture myself breaking someone's heart and saying that this is a drink-alone-at-the-bar kind of record."

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***The Mountain Goats,** Monday, April 11, Tuesday, April 12, Wednesday, April 13 ($30-$45, all ages) at City Winery.

ON SALE 10 A.M. FRIDAY

***The Avett Brothers,** Friday, April 22, Saturday, April 23 ($45-$75, all ages) at Chicago Theatre.

Ben Folds and yMusic, Friday, May 13 ($35, 18+) at Riviera Theatre.

***Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band,** Tuesday, Jan. 19 ($55-$150, all ages) at United Center.

Cannibal Corpse, Saturday, Feb. 27 ($25-$30, 18+) at Metro.

Guster, Rhett Miller, Saturday, Jan. 30 ($30, 18+) at Vic Theatre.

Josh Groban, Tuesday, Aug. 9 ($32.75-$152.75, all ages) at FirstMerit Bank Pavilion at Northerly Island.

***Little Green Cars,** Thursday, May 5 ($14-$16, 18+) at Metro.

Megadeth, Sunday, March 13 ($45, 17+) at Aragon Ballroom.

Wavves, Best Coast, Wednesday, Feb. 24 ($30-$35, all ages) at Thalia Hall.

ON SALE NOON FRIDAY

***Dengue Fever,** Sunday, April 24 ($16-$18, 21+) at Schubas.

Elliot Brood, Sunday, Feb. 7 ($13-$15, 21+) at Schubas.

Hawthorne Heights, The Ataris, Sunday, March 6 ($18-$20, all ages) at Bottom Lounge.

***Jack Garratt, Kacy Hill,** Sunday, March 6 ($18, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.

***Joseph**, Friday, March 11 ($13-$15, 21+) at Schubas.

Made Of Oak, Thursday, April 7 ($15, 18+) at Schubas.

Martin Courtney, Tuesday, Feb. 9 ($15, 21+) at Schubas.

The Mavericks, Friday, March 18 ($36-$59, all ages) at Thalia Hall.

Melanie Martinez, Thursday, March 17 ($27.50, all ages) at Vic Theatre.

***Mount Moriah,** Friday, March 18 ($12, 21+) at Schubas.

Ra Ra Riot, Friday, April 8 ($25, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.

ON SALE 11 A.M. SATURDAY

***Peter Bradley Adams,** Sunday, March 6 ($15-$26, all ages) at Space.

***The Pines,** Friday, Feb. 12 ($12-$22, all ages) at Space.

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Chris Brown, Sunday, Dec. 13 ($76, 17+) at Aragon Ballroom.

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Scott Avett of the Avett Brothers
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LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE

A helpful guide for holiday gift wrapping

By Nara Schoenberg | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Need a system for wrapping rectangular boxes? Here's one of the best: simple, beautiful, even kind of eco-friendly. You'll save paper and ribbon with these directions from Wanda Wen, author of "The Art of Gift Wrapping: 50 Innovative Ideas Using Organic, Unique, and Uncommon Materials."

The cornerstone of her technique: accurately sized paper, eliminating the gaping and clumping that torment amateur wrappers. The flourish is a ribbon that looks clean and classic, yet goes on without an inch of waste and comes off with a single pull.

You wrap the box with ribbon without cutting it until you're done, ensuring "that you're not cutting a piece of ribbon that's too long or too short," Wen said, "because that's another pet peeve of people, especially if you're using expensive ribbon."

1. Put the box down on the gift wrap. Cut a rectangle of paper large enough to comfortably wrap the present.

2. Trim the width of the paper: Place the rectangle of paper on the table; put the gift on top. Loosely wrap the paper around the box's width and depth and add 2 inches of overlap; trim.

3. Trim the length of the paper: Now place the box on the bottom edge of the rectangle of paper. Stand the box on its end and then push it down and away from you to measure out the length and depth. Again, factor in another 2 inches of overlap; trim.

4. Put the box, bottom up, in the middle of the paper.

5. Wrap the width: Bring one side of the paper up and, using double-stick tape, affix it to the box. Take the other edge of the paper, fold it in about ½ inch (to hide the raw edge) and affix it with the tape to the top of the box. The seam should be in the middle, with no raw edges and no visible tape.

6. Finish ends: Press the paper in toward the box on both the left and the right, forming sharp diagonal creases on the top flap. Tape the top flap to the box. Now form the same sharp creases on the bottom end, but before taping this end to the box, fold in the raw edge about ½ inch to create a perfect edge. Tape to the box.

7. Gently using your fingertips, create sharp creases along the edges of the box.

8. Now the bow: Don't cut ribbon off the spool. Take the loose end and pull out a length sufficient for one of the bow loops and a tail—about 10 inches total. Take that 10-inch length and anchor it at the center of the box, with the loose end dangling off the left side.

9. Holding the spool with your right hand on the right side of the box, and the 10-inch tail secured with your left hand, wrap the ribbon around the width of the box one time, come back to the center, and hold the ribbon with your left hand; now turn the spool end down toward the bottom of the box and wrap the length of the box.

10. Bring the spool end of the ribbon back to the middle of the box, and hold the ribbon with your left hand. Use your right hand to cut another 10-inch tail.

11. Bring the new tail down to the bottom left corner of the box and thread it back under the intersection of ribbons at the center. **Tie a bow.**

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Stk. #Y9597
79 AVAILABLE - 6 AT THIS PRICE

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6		8		4			1	
4		5		7				
				1				
				6		5		4
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		7	6			4		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

9	5	8	3	6	4	1	7	2
2	3	6	9	7	1	8	5	4
1	4	7	8	5	2	6	9	3
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7	6	3	4	1	9	5	2	8
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8	1	2	5	9	6	3	4	7
6	7	4	1	2	3	9	8	5
3	9	5	7	4	8	2	1	6

TUESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

A	R	K			S	P	A	N	S		H	E	R	O
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S	T	A	R		L	A	T	E	R		D	R	I	P
S	O	B	S		E	W	E	R	S			P	R	Y

BRAIN CANDY

» Male members of the Sateré-Mawé tribe must wear bullet ant gloves for 10 minutes as a part of their initiation into adulthood.

» It is estimated that 176 million people around the world suffer from OCD.

» The stream of photons emitted from a phone screen at night tells your brain to stay awake.

curiosity.com
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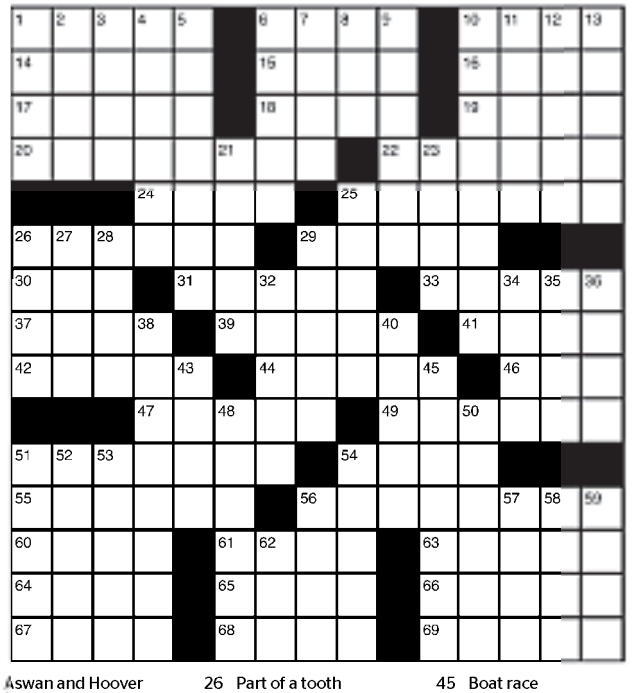

ACROSS
1 Frequently
6 Eve's man
10 Lion's neck hair
14 On one's own
15 Evans or Robertson
16 Skunk's defense
17 _ firma; dry land
18 Leave out
19 Hideaway
20 Elected officials
22 Go by, as time
24 Trait transmitter
25 Lifted up
26 Sign of affection
29 Deserves
30 _ dos, tres...
31 _ on; reveals the offenses of
33 J. Paul or Estelle
37 Celebrity
39 Cup-shaped flower
41 As _ as a boil
42 Yearned
44 Happen again
46 Habit wearer
47 Compare
49 Joshes with
51 _ around; commanded
54 Gigantic
55 Bawl out
56 Go different ways
60 "Woe is me!"
61 Family member
63 Leg bone
64 Create
65 Jimmy Carter's middle name
66 Sagas
67 Chopping tools
68 Charles and Romano
69 Give a heads-up to

DOWN
1 Dobbin's dinner
2 Escape
3 Feeling mixed emotions
4 Infuriate
5 Most orderly
6 Venerate
7 Aswan and Hoover
8 Heavyweight Muhammad _
9 Shooting star
10 Ingredient in baked beans
11 Alter to fit
12 Racket
13 Miscalculated
21 Beginning
23 "So _!"; casual farewell
25 _ training; boot camp
26 Part of a tooth
27 "Nay" voter
28 Reddish horse
29 Actress Burstyn
32 Enticed
34 Truck scale divisions
35 _-blue; loyal
36 Strong desires
38 Sets free
40 _ with; tolerate
43 Soil
45 Boat race
48 Big enough fish
50 Antenna
51 2012 winner
52 Kick back
53 Male duck
54 Gets well
56 Agile
57 Qualified
58 Layer of a wedding cake
59 "Krakatoa, _ of Java"; film for Maximilian Schell
62 Motorists' assn.

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WHO ELSE CAN BE ON THIS LIST?

NBC went ahead and renewed "The Blacklist" for a fourth season. According to **tvline.com**, series creator Jon Bokenkamp said, "We knew about that a while ago. It's one of those things that's hard to keep quiet. But yes, we're renewed through the fourth season. Hopefully we don't tank that out. We've got a lot of story to tell." Seriously, how much more story is there?

Hollywood can't be stopped

ABC has officially greenlit a three-hour musical version of the 1987 movie "Dirty Dancing." According to **ew.com**, Abigail Breslin has landed the lead role of Baby. Who do you think is going to play Johnny? Zac Efron, maybe?

EXCITED WE ARE

Conan O'Brien will welcome the cast of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" to his late-night show on Thursday, Dec. 17. Cast members Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, John Boyega, Daisy Ridley, Oscar Isaac, Adam Driver, Lupita Nyong'o and Gwendoline Christie and director J.J. Abrams will appear together on the show, according to **deadline.com**. The upcoming "Star Wars" installment comes out in theaters Dec. 18.

THE QUOTE

"As soon as I'm in front of you lot, I just {bleep} myself. I love you, but you scare me!"

—**Adele**, during her taped NBC special that aired Monday, after singing the song "All I Ask" and promising her vocals are better on the album.

New gig for the Queen

Queen Latifah has been cast as the lead in Lee Daniels' upcoming show for Fox. According to **eonline.com**, Latifah will play Carlotta, an owner of an Atlanta beauty salon who also happens to have a wonderful voice. Her character will also be a surrogate mother to three girls with musical dreams, and the show will be about the three of them trying to make it big in the Atlanta music scene, according to E!.

AP AND GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTOS

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